

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA FILE Leg

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09 SEP 1987

Mr. James M. Frey
Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

Representative Ireland has requested the Agency's views on H.R. 3150, the "Defense Intelligence Commercial Entities Act."

We ask for your advice as to whether or not there is an objection from the standpoint of the Administration's program to the submission of the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

David D. Gries
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
as stated

cc: David Addington, Special Assistant
to the President for Legislative Affairs

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DRAFT

Honorable Andy Ireland
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ireland:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Agency's views on H.R. 3150, the "Defense Intelligence Commercial Entities Act."

As expressed on previous occasions to the Congress, the Agency supports the efforts of the Department of Defense (DoD) to obtain enactment of legislation authorizing the establishment by DoD of certain commercial entities to facilitate the collection of intelligence. The operational tools provided by such legislation would enable DoD military intelligence collectors to gather intelligence information required by military commanders worldwide. The legislation would provide a better and more secure operating environment for DoD collectors and open access to intelligence targets not currently accessible.

The legislation, however, would neither change nor increase DoD's intelligence mission nor duplicate existing Agency activities. Any use of the authorities granted by such legislation would be coordinated with the Agency under existing DoD-Agency coordination procedures so as to avoid any duplication of effort. Upon enactment of such legislation, the Agency would continue ongoing efforts to assist DoD by providing the benefit of past experience in the area.

As you know, the Administration's proposal for legislation in this area has been contained in the last several draft intelligence authorization bills as transmitted to the Congress by the Director of Central Intelligence.

Legislation of this nature has the potential for creating duplication of effort and overlapping of functions. The Administration's proposal was, therefore, carefully coordinated within the Intelligence Community and the Executive Branch to avoid such problems. The end product is one which the Agency, the Community and the entire Executive Branch can support.

The Agency supports H.R. 3150 insofar as it, too, recognizes the need for legislation of this nature. We appreciate your recognition of that need and your efforts in support of legislation on the subject. The Agency, however, prefers the Administration proposal because of the extensive coordination and careful balancing of interests which went into its preparation. As both you and DoD are proceeding from the same basis (i.e., the need for legislation) and your proposals are fundamentally similar, we hope you can work together to produce legislation which you both can accept.

We thank you for entertaining the Agency's comments on this subject.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that submission of this report is consistent with the Administration's objectives.

Sincerely,

David D. Gries
Director of Congressional Affairs